THE YEAR.

CIRCUIT OF THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

-GENERAL BUSINESS WELL-SUSTAINED-TWO GREAT ENGLISH MEASURES-DEATH OF TWO HOHENZOLLERNS-DEVELOPMENT

OF MILITARISM AND BOULANGISM. In a year when Europe was concerned chiefly with the personal fortunes of sovereigns, statesmen and political adventurers, the American people have taken into their own hands the scales of their industrial destiny, and weighing Democracy in the balance with the country's interests, have found it wanting. This political revolution has been a triumph of selfgovernment, achieved without causing undue strain to republican institutions nor seriously disturbing the volume of general business. Abroad militarism is still rampant, Germany, Austria-Hungary and France having greatly increased their armaments. Two Hohenzollerns have been followed to the grave. Leo XIII has celebrated his golden jubilee and the Emperor of Austria the fortieth anniversary of his coronation. While Mr. Gladstone has been struggling almost single-handed to accomplish Ireland's political redemption, the Salisbury Government has held its ground and enacted two great legislative measures. In France Boulangism has become a formidable political force, menacing the existence of the Republic. Russia's credit has improved in Paris, but its prestige in Southeastern Europe is steadily declining.

UNITED STATES.

The most impressive event of the year is the political revolution wrought by the suffrages of early eleven millions of citizens in America, President Cleveland was personally responsible for his own defeat. He never avowed himself to be a Free Trader, but as his English admirers incautiously admitted, his message was redolent of Cobdenism, and portions of it read like extracts from Mr. Bright's earliest speeches. It was a challenge to the Republican party which had built the industries of the country upon the rock of protection. It was a warning that the Demoeratic party, if it were suffered to remain in power. would pull down those industries and seek to rebuild them on the shifting sands of free trade. The people assembled in National parliament, after debating economic questions for ten months, rejected the President's proposals and restored the Republican party to power.

The President's new issue had the field and blocked all legislation, although Congress remained in session until October 20. It was not until March 1, and only after two months of secret conference, in which their Republican colleagues had no share, that the seven Democratic members of the Committee of Ways and Means brought to light the Mills bill. On April 2 it was reported to the House and debated for several weeks; the speakers on the Democratic side with few exceptions making no attempt to conceal their sympathy with free trade. The Sugar Trust was consulted by the leaders, and the Whiskey Trust played a great part in the conspiracy against American industry, a repeal of the internal revenue laws being fatal to its interests. A series of amendments adopted in secret caucus were the only changes ordered by the House, and these were largely the result of bargains. Mr. Randall spoke against the bill, but Democratic opposition was broken down by the patronage and powerful influence of the Administration. The bill passed the House July 21 by a party division of 162 to 149, only three Republicans voting for it and four Democrats against it. From the South and Southwest there were 38 votes for and 12 against it; from the West and Northwest, 42 for and 68 against it; from the Middle States and New-Engnd 35 for and 63 against it; from the Pacific States, 2 for and 6 against it.

During this protracted period the Senate had been sending measures by the score to be buried by the committees of the lower house. Among these were the Blair Education, Dependent Pension, International Copyright, and Dakota bills. Very fittle legislation of importance was enacted reduced the surplus revenues. The House, when it was not discussing the tariff, was frittering away time in a week's deadlock over the bill for refunding the direct tax of 1861, or in equally wasteful methods. The Senate, after receiving the Mills bill, occupied the remainder of the session in the preparation of a substitute for it. The additions to the statutes were exceedingly meagre, comprising a bill providing for the purchase of United States bonds and authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to apply surplus revenues for that purpose; a Labor Arbitration Act, a tentative Fortifications and Armaments bill, and another for the increase of the Navy; amendments to the Interstate and Presidential Count Acts; and other measures of miner importance. The reports of the Pacific Railway Commission presented to Congress with an Executive Message deprecating any arrangement for placing the roads in the possession of the Government involved no legislation.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS. Meantime, the President was in the field for renomination without a rival anywhere in sight. He had strengthened his influence in the South by promoting Secretary Lamar to the Supreme bench, the Senate confirming the nomination by a vote of 32 to 28, three Republicans siding with the Democrats. This was the first time that body had ever been divided on party lines on a question of confirming an appointment for that court. Subsequently Melville W. Fuller was nominated and confirmed as Chief Justice. The Cabinet was reorganized by the transfer of Mr. Vilas to the Department of the Interior and the appointment of Don M. Dickinson, an experienced politician, as Postmaster-General. Civil Service Reform went begging and a general clearance was made of the patronage remaining at the disposal of the Presi-"The condition that confronts us" and "the tariff is a tax" were the new conjuring phrases. The Democratic House had loyally sup-ported the President's policy and embodied his grude economic theories in the Mills bill. The party was equally submissive when it in June at St. Louis, In its platform it accepted his message as the correct interpretation of the tariff juggle adopted by it in 1884, and renominated him by acclamation. He had already selected Judge Thurman as his associate on the ticket, disappointing the ambition of Governor Gray, of Indiana. When his will was registered by the Convention, the redemption of the country from the evils of excessive taxation was proclaimed as the glorious mission of the Man of Destiny and the Noble Old Roman. Judge Thurman's services had only received recognition from the Administration when it was necessary to secure a lawyer of unblemished reputation for the purpose of dignifying the scandalous telephone suits instituted by the Department of Justice, described by Mr. Randall as the Sink of Injustice. The United States Supreme Court had rendered in March a decision covering all issues of law and fact and confirming the Bell patents. Judge Thurman after his nomination appeared for the Government and the telephone speculators, and secured the privilege of reopening the case in Boston. The Republicans had a cause that was " stronger

than any candidate," but the desire for the renomination of Mr. Blaine was irresistible. He had written a letter in February from Florence refusing to have his name presented to the Convention, but delegates known to favor his nomination were elected everywhere. A positive declination from General Sheridan removed an available candidate, and the choice of Mr. Blaine was generally conceded as inevitable when a second and more emphatic refusal to accept the nomination was conveyed in a letter to Mr. Reid. The Convention met in June at Chicago with a dozen favorite sons scrambling for the omination. For several days there was ballot-

POLITICAL REVOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES, President, Mr. Phelps being the choice of a large had previously nominated General Chinton B. Fisk and John A. Brooks as their candidates, and the Union Labor party at Cincinnati had also placed a ticket in the field.

From the outset the stars seemed to be fighting for the Republican cause. The preliminary State elections resulted unfavorably for the party in power. Rhode Island in April and Oregon eve of the renomination of the the President were carried by the Republicans with heavy gains. Mr. Blaine returned from Europe, was received with great enthusiasm and took an active part in the canvass in various Northern States. General Harrison himself materially strengthened his canvass by a series of judicious specches in Indianapolis. In New-York the party had distinctively moral issues to present to the consciences of voters. The vetoes of the High-License and Saxton bills by Governor Hill brought temperance and ballet reform into the canvass with Warner Miller as the repre sentative of the churches against the saloons Through the agency of the National League campaign clubs multiplied in every State. Protection was made an issue of commanding importance, and was advocated without equivocation East and West. The Democratic leaders on the other hand, finding themselves embarrassed by the suppert of the English press and the outspoken utterances of Southern orators in doubtful States, sought to evade responsibility for the contro versy between Free Trade and Protection which the President had brought on. They induced their aged candidate for the Vice-Presidency to swing round the circle in order to revive the enthusiasm of the rank and file of the party and to counteract the personal unpopularity of the President, and had recourse to every expedient for breaking the force of the argument based upon English sympathy for the Democratic cause. The Sackville incident at the close of the canvass illuminated the political situation and baffled the most ingenious efforts of partisans to explain away the notorious fact that the leading free-trade country of the world, animated by self-interest, was hoping for the re-election of the President and the triumph of his party The elections in Vermont and Maine in the early autumn were unerring forecasts of the genera result in November. After a remarkably active and thorough canvass, which was kept singularly free from personalities and partisan defamation and in which both sides were well supplied with money, Protection was master of the field. The precise result of the election was the

recovery of Indiana and New-York by the Republicans, all the remaining States voting as they had done in 1884. These two States, carried respectively by pluralities of 2,348 and 14,373 transferred fifty-one votes in the Electoral College, Harrison receiving 233 to 168 for Cleveland. With the exception of Connecticut and New Jersey, the North was united in defence of its industries. In the South there can hardly be said to have been a popular election. Save in a few instances the Democrats increased their majorities in their own States, and the Republicans theirs in the States which had been carried by Plaine. The total vote was 10,960,650, Cleveland having a plurality of 95,025 over Harrison on the popular vote. The Prohibition vote was 245,705 against 150,369 in 1884; and the Union Labor vote, 141,902, a loss of over 33,000 in four years. The House of Representa tives in the LIst Congress will comprise 166 Republicans and 159 Democrats, with a strong probability that the majority will be increased when contested seats are decided. The Senate will remain as in the Lth Congress, thirty-nine Republicans and thirty-seven Democrats. The Republican Senator lost in Virginia will be replaced from Delaware, and possibly an additional gain will be made in West Virginia, where the Legislature is very close. The general result of the election was not in doubt six hours after the ballots were east, and was immediately acquiesced in by the defeated party. The President was, perhaps, less philosophical than his followers, for his Message sent to Congress on December 3 exhibited the soreness of a disredited politician. had forced his party to adopt had been rejected by the people, he considered himself justified in denouncing the greed and avarice of manufact urers as a class, and the tyranny of corporations trusts and monopolies, and in berating sixty millions of people for neglecting to appreciate the statesmanship and patriotism of his Admin-

The diplomatic career of the Administration inglorious from the beginning, has been continued on the two lines of servility to great Power and overbearing aggressiveness toward petty States. With Great Britain a Pisheries treaty was negotiated on February 15, after the President had been warned by the Senate against arbitration and armed by Congress with adequate powers of retaliation. As soon as the text was published it was condemned by ex-Judge Woodbury, R. S. Spofford and Mr. Trescott, three Democratic champions of American fishing rights, as a dishonorable compact involving (1) the surrender of everything for which the United States had been ontending since 1838, when disputes respecting the three-mile limit arcse; (2) the abandonment of the commercial privileges on which Secretary Bayard and Mr. Phelps had grounded the American case in their diplomatic correspondence; (3) humane treatment of shipwrecked crews and vessels in distress-a concession voluntarily made on all except barbarous coasts; (4) condonation of a campaign of outrage in which 2,000 vessels had been boarded and 400 seized, barassed and subjected to expense and annoyance; (5) the ultimate repeal of duties amounting to \$600,000 annually as an adequate compensation for license to buy supplies worth perhaps \$50,000. The treaty was

debated for twenty-three days in open session of

the Senate, and was rejected in August by a strict

DIPLOMACY OF THE YEAR.

The consideration or the Extradition Treaty had previously been deferred until December, and trenuous efforts were made on the Democratic side to secure a similar postpenement of the Chamberlain-Bayard convention, so as to exempt it from partisan criticism before election. As soon as it was rejected the President exposed the insincerity of this plea by sending to Congress, for political effect, a message recommending the immediate enlargement of the powers conferred by the Retaliation act so as to enable him to de prive Canada of bonding and transit privileges in and from American ports. A subsequent indiscretion on the part of Lord Sackville, in answering a letter addressed to him from California on the political duties and interests of British-Americans afforded another opportunity for an electioneering manoeuvre. The British Minister, after ten days of vacillation, was summarily distaissed in response to importunate demands from campaign headquarters for action that would prevent a general stampede of Irish voters. Lord Sackville's successor has not been appointed, the British Government having resented the unseemly haste with which their representative was sent home. Another political manoeuvre was the legislation en acted with precipitate haste when the treaty prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers for twenty years was rejected at Pekin in October, after having been ratified at Washington in March These measures are designed to prevent the return of such immigrants when they leave the United States, and also to probbit the issue of certificates of identity.

The State Department's protests against Gernan intrigue in Samoa have been as nerveless as its defence of American maritime rights on the Dominion seaboard. King Malietoa, who was deposed and transported to the Cameroons for following the advice of the United States and British Consuls, has been supplanted by King Tamasese, chief of the rebel forces, who had been supported by the German fleet. The followers of the former

itself to employ its good offices as a mediator whenever ser ous differences with any other Power should arise. Prince Bismarck's cavalier treatment of Secretary Boyard's feeble remonstrances is one of the cynical humors of the year's diplomacy. But then, Germany is a great Power with which the State Department does not venture to take liberties. Its spasmodic displays of energy are reserved for weak States which cannot resist them. There was a miniature naval demonstration on the coasts of Morocco, when two Mohammedans under the protection of the United States Cusul at Tanglers were imprisoned, and the foreign Consuls were called in to settle the controversy. was a similar exhibition of naval force in December, when Admiral Luce was sent to Havti to demand the surrender of the steamer Haytien Republic, which had been seized by the provisional Government of Legitime for ignoring a Simsy blockede of the ports held by the hostile faction headed by Hyppolite. The vessel was restored to its owners without a struggle. A wiser and more statesmanlike policy is the revival of Mr. Blaine's project for a conference of American States in Washington during 1889. Congress has authorized the President to invite Brazil, the Republics of South and Central America, Mexico and the West Indian Republics to send representatives to this international council, which will be empowered to devise a plan of arbitration for the settlement of disputes without warfare, and to promote the improvement of business intercourse by the adoption of uniform systems of coinage, weights and measares, customs regulations and mail communications. In domestic administration the most creditable

achievement has been the progress made with the construction of the new Navy. Several cruisers and gunboats, which give promise of high speed, have been launched, and the industrics requisite for the production of gun metal and steel armor have been established on American soil. A dynamite cruiser has also been completed. States the most noticeable features of legislation have been practical temperance measures and High License bills, ballot reform schemes, and in New-York the substitution of electricity for the gibbet. Socialist agitation has continued in Chicago, twelve dynamite bombs having been discovered on July 17, with proofs of a conspiracy for he destruction of many public buildings. Dynamite was also used in one of the railway strikes, but Anarchists on the whole find America a most unpromising field for their operations. Yellow fever devastated the population of Jacksonville in the summer and autumn, having been introduced from Caba by way of Tampa. While there were thousands of cases in Florida, the disease was not particularly malignant, the proportion of deaths not being high. Typhoid fever has made terrible ravages in Northern cities, the apparent cause being the unusually rainy summer and autumn, which followed the famous Morch blizzard.

THE BUSINESS YEAR.

Business has been wonderfully well astained during the year, when all that has occurred to cause depression is considered. Looking back one finds that there was almost constant complaint of dulness, and the course of prices excited general disappointment; yet the aggregate volume of transactions was surprising's large, and excluive of speculation in stocks, probably larger han in any preceding year. The continual complaint of mactivity was clearly due in the main to disappointment of extravagant anticipations. When it is considered that the year was interrupted by a Presidential election of unusual exitement, and that business was affected by a partial failure of the wheat crop and injury to otton, by agitation of the tariff question, by apprecedented storms in March and outbreaks of yellow fever at the South during the fall, by strikes and railway wars of unusual magnitude and duration, and by numerous failures of importance in this country and in Europe, it is sales has been so large.

gitation of the tariff question and the defeat of Free Trade, With President Cleveland's mazing tariff message fresh in the public mind, or six months. No action by Congress resulted: a bill passed the House which would have cutoff more than one-third of the duties of a protective character; but the Senate had already begun to prepare, through its Finance Committee, a measure in harmony with the protective policy, which was afterward reported as a substitute and discussed until the long session ended. Early in June, when it was considered probable that great changes in the rate of duties might be made, the degression in industries reached its maximum. The extent of that depression may be inferred from two records, showing the weekly output of anthracite and coke pig iron about the first of each month, and the average price of 108 qualities of wool quoted by Coates Brothers' circulars:

Part of the decrease in iron output in January and February was due to the great strike of Reading and Lehigh Valley workers, which ended on the former road in the first week of February and on the latter after six months of endurance in the second week of March. No other labor difficulties approached these in importance and duration, and the defeat of the Reading operators through the influence of Knights of Labor, it was held, led to the speedy defeat of the organization in their most important struggle-a strike on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and some other Western railroads in July. Cotton spinners engaged in a controversy which was settled in March. The collapse of the coke syndicate in the same month was in part caused by a dispute about wages, and a great strike of iron-workers at Pittsburg in July ended after about a fortnight with the complete disruption of the Western Iron Manufacturers' Association. In the main wages were fairly maintained during the year, with less decrease during the time of depression

than is usual at such periods. The tariff agitation affected many branches of manufacture until midsummer, when it became clear that no bill could be passed until after the election. The attitude taken by parties in their onventions then gave hope that the National policy would be sustained, and as this expectation was strengthened, gradual recovery of business and improvement in manufactures continued through the rest of the year. So rapid was the advance in raw wool after the middle of September that the manufacture was for a time deterred from extending production, in view of large imports and low prices of imported goods, but more recently there has been a marked increase in production. The increase in output of ron has been so great that each attempt to lift prices has been checked; but the lowest prices f the year were made about a month ago, when steel rails are said to have been sold at \$25 at mill. Large purchases in anticipation of the election were made about November 1 by the Vanderbilt and other lines, and the year closed with an enormous production in progress and with prices slightly improved since November. Reports of injury to wheat began to affect the

market soon after the unprecedented blizzard in March. Conflicting accounts kept speculation active until it culminated in a corner at Chicago with \$1 25 paid September 26. Prior to and since that time artificial prices have almost completely arrested exports of wheat from Atlantic ports, while wheat from the Pacific Coast has been apidly marketed, and large exports of corn to Europe have been made. Among other speculations which disturbed the market was the corner in cotton, which led English manufacturers to combine for curtailment of the demand; a crash

ing without result, and then the deadlock was broken by the nomination of General Harrison, who had received the support of the New-York delegation. Mr. Morton was nominated for Vice-President, Mr. Phelps being the choice of a large minority. The Probletionists at Indianapolis States Government had made treaties, pledging had previously nominated General Clinton B. Fisk itself to employ its good offices as a mediator fluences, and at times the speculation in stocks was excited, though on the whole the year showed in that department a decrease of about a quarter in volume of transactions. The following shows the average price of sixty active stocks at each point of culminating advance or decline during the year, in comparison with the average price of all commodities quoted daily for the same

dates: | Date | Stocks | Products | Date | Stocks | Products | Jan. 3 | 861 02 | \$64 48 | Aug. 18 | 61 48 | 59 59 |
Jan. 28	61 96	64 60	Sep. 8	64 37 2	60 28
Mar. 31	55 71	64 81	Sep. 15	62 56	59 90
Apr. 28	61 38	62 95	Sep. 25	65 09	50 84
Jun. 16	57 67	50 41	Dec. 5	58 63	60 42
Aug. 11	63 34	58 71	Dec. 22	61 00	59 84

the passage of a bill authorizing the Treasury

to employ surplus money in the purchase of bonds,

and reflected the anxiety then prevailing in specu-

lative circles lest severe monetary pressure might be at hand. So little actual scarcity of money existed that the highest prices of the entire year for commodities happened to be made on the same day. A rapid improvement in stocks was presently checked by railroad wars, which have been more serious, widespread and injurious to business than in any other recent year. Resulting mainly from the construction of many competing lines at the West, these struggles have within the past month been nominally terminated by agreement, which, however, few expect to see endure. About the middle of June marks nert began in stocks, coincident with the of the Treasury to purchase boards and expect the currency. During the months receding the ever lon enormous sums were added to the circulature that it was a year ago. The Salisbury Governmedium, no less than \$15,000,000 being poured ment is not to be charged with infirmity of purout in one week, the third of October. For the pose in Ireland, stace with a pertinacity peculiarly record of prices shows that the maximum for stocks | English it has adhered with inflexible determinahad been reached about the and of September, and tion to its general policy, whether good or bad; that prices of commedities a unged remarkably and it is to be credited with two substanial legislittle during the expansion of arrency, the great lative achievements. One of these was the conadvance in wheat being balances by decline in many manufactured articles, in ocn, of which the crop exceeded 2,000,000,000 bushels, and per cent subsequently. This was Mr. Goschen's eventually, through collapse of speculation, in most

of the products controlled by the e changes. The expansion of currency reached its height with the election, and there has since been a counties. This was a radical and in the main a gradual decrease. During the entire year money has been abundant at nearly all interior points, the municipal organization of the English meand the demand upon this city less than usual. tropolis and overthrew the existing county sys-Gold exports occurred in April, and again in November and December, partly on account of a division, but was industriously debated for sevforeign realizing on securities, and of late to meet eral weeks in committee, Mr. Ritchie displaying demands from South America, but not in amount great political capacity and tact in medifying sufficient to cause disturbance. The number of failures during the year has been large, exceeding that of 1887, but while some have been important, the average of liabilities has been reduced, especially during the last half of the year. On the whole, in view of many influences tending to been impracticable if the rule of procedure in the depress legitimate trade, the industry and commerce of the country have been less seriously affected in 1888 than in most other Presidential years, and the decision of the people in favor of the policy of protection has given to industries confidence with which to begin the new year.

FRANCE.

In France history seems to be repeating itself. The third Republic is apparently drifting towards the rocks of military dictatorship and usurpation of power on which the second Republic was Now, as in 1851, there is widespread discontent with existing institutions; there is an anomalous agitation in favor of constitutional revision; there are warring factions of Monarchists, Bonapartists, Clericalists and Extremists who are eager for a revolution and willing to work together; and there is in General Boulanger a political intriguer resembling Louis Napoleon. He, too, is an avowed candidate for the Presidency, and notwithstanding his failures in the Chamber of Deputies he is supported, as Louis Napoleon was, by a great popular constituency recruited strange indeed that the volume of traffic and of from the discontented classes. He affects patriotic impulses, and disclaims a policy of intrigue and The one influence which more than any other usurpation; but the ceaseless play of his own controlled operations, first checking and depressing ambitions, and the antagonistic forces of reaction, business and afterward stimulating it, was the solid revolt and greed which are behind Boulangwarning that be fraught with danger to France.

Two Ministries have made ineffectual attempt he agitation continued to depress manufactures to discredit and disgrace General Boulanger. When the constituencies began to vote for him early in the year the Tirard Government relieved him from active duty in the army for visiting Paris three times without permission, and subsequently retired him. He enlarged at once the cope of his political operations, and became a candidate for Deputy in two Departments, carrying Dordogne by a majority of nearly 20,000 and Nord by 96,000 majority. In Aisne and Aude Boulangist nominees were also elected. The new Deputy attended two sessions of the Chamber, proposing on June 4 an unrestricted revision of the constitution, and on July 12 demanding th dissolution of the national legislature. On each occasion his demonstration against Parliamentarism was a fiasco, his assertion that he had received a direct mandate from the people being met with jeers and insuits, and his proposals being rejected by a vote of two to one. M. Floquet, who had succeeded M. Tirard as Premier, resented a personal affront, and challenging General Boulanger to a duel, completed his discomfiture by wounding him in the neck. Boulangism appeared for a season to be rapidly ebbing. A powerful Radical organ deserted the cause; dissensions broke out in the central committee; an Opportunist candidate was elected in the Charente, and General Boulanger himself was defeated in the Ardeche. When the Chambers adjourned in July a speedy collapse of the movement was confidently expected. On August 19 the Republican leaders discovered that their rejoicings had been prema-General Boulanger secured enormous majorities in the Nord, the Somme and the Charente Inferieure, The Conservative factions had put themselves behind him, in the desperate hope of profiting by the temporary establishment of a military despotism. Capitalists had contributed liberally to his campaign fund. Popular ascontent had welcomed him as the evangel of change and better times.

These triumphs of Boulangism forced M Floquet to take up the question of constitutional revision. By a coalition between the Radicals and Conservatives the Tirard Ministry was overthrown on March 30, after having been seriously
weakened by the rejection of the colonial estimates
in January, and its refusal to sanstion the lottery
loan on which M. de Lesseps had staked his
last hope of completing the Panama Canal. M.
Floquet formed a Ministry with M. Goblet in
charge of Foreign Affairs, M. Petral at the Treasury, and M. de Freyeinet in the War Department.
As the Ministry represented the Radicals mainly,
it received notice promptly from M. Ferry that
it could be defeated any day by a coalition
between the Opportunists and Conservatives.
This warning took the form of the election of
M. Meline over M. Clemenceau as President of the
Chamber. M. Floquet had advocated Revision
in his Ministerial programme, but alafmed by
the menace of Opportunist opposition he deferred
action on this burning question and carried
through the Chambers two measures of practical
attility, one for the regulation of factory labor and
the other for defining the responsibility of employers for accidents to workmen. The Panama
Canal lottery bill was also passed, and the financial
budgets were disposed of with unusual facility. and Conservatives the Tirard Ministry was over-Canal lottery bill was also passed, and the financial budgets were disposed of with unusual facility. The Boulangist successes in August convinced M. Floquet that he could not safely postpone also original project. The Revision agitation had become so dangerous that he must meet General Boulanger on his own ground. Accordingly, when the Chambers reassmbled in the autumn, he brought forward his plan of Revision. The President was to be deprived of the right of dissolving the Chamber of Deputie the Senate was to have only a suspensive veto for two years in quaeral legislation and an empty privilege of remonstrance in financial affairs; collective respective of Ministers was to cease, and each of be personally responsible to the Charabe

feated.

M. Floquet evidently has no hope of obtaining

M. Floquet evidently has no hope of the Revision before the general elections. He has aimed to take the wind out of the Boulangist sails. By advocating extreme ideas and proposing an income tax, he has tried to satisfy Radical committees and to unite the Republican party. His success is problematical, since he has alienated because of moderate Republicans, especially by His success is problematical, since he has alienated thousands of moderate Republicans, especially by his proposed income tax, while soliciting the return of the Extremists, who have been shouting for Boulangism without knowing what they wanted. The collapse of the Panama Canal Company after the failure of the lottery loan has weakened both the Ministry and the Chambers. General Boulanger lost no time in bidding for the votes of the 800,000 shareholders whose savings have been swept away. Meanwhile the the votes of the 800,000 shareholders whose savings have been swept away. Meanwhile the financial burdens of the Government have steadily increased, the national debt exceeding \$5,000,006,000, and the military budget requiring a standing expenditure of \$110,000,000, with \$100,000,000 for defences and extraordinary outlays. France pays heavily for its atmoments on land and sea, yet its diplomatic prestige steadily declines and it stands outside the circle of European alliances, virtually isolated. A feeling of resentment caused by enforced abstention from Continental affairs possibly explains the singular decree which compels all foreign residents to report to the police for registration. Not only Ministers, but the form of government as well, are held accountable for the decline of French influence abroad; and here is another source of the growing strength of Boulangism. Since their armaments cost so much Frenchmen are cager to have the nation count for something in the affairs of the world.

THE WHILL H FULLET

"I I month eca men

version of the entire National debt into new consols at 2 3-4 per cent for fifteen years, and 2 1-2 work and established his r putation as the greatest English financier after Mr. Gladstone. Another was the Local Government bill for London and the broadly democratic measure, which revolutionized tem. The bill passed to a second reading without various features which excited criticism, and in withdrawing the licensing clauses altogether when warned by adverse votes of several constituencies. The measure was one of the largest ever disposed of in a single session, and its passage would have Commons had not been amended at the outset. Both Mr. Giadstone and Mr. Parnell discountenanced obstruction and the rules were easily changed so as to bring closure into operation automatically and to put an end te dilatory motions and superfluous debate. Mr. Bradlaugh's Affirmation bill. over which previous Parliaments had held high and angry debate, was also enacted, together with the Parnell Commission Act, the extension of the Ashbourne Act and other measures. This creditable legislative record was largely attributable to the two political alliances: the Irish-Gladstonian, since this prevented a renewal of obstruction : and the Tory-Unionist, since Lord Hartington's followers were under obligations to support a Government which introduced liberal easures, such as the Local Government bill. THE IRISH STRUGGLE.

Wilfrid Blunt was picking cakum like an ordinary convict for the offence of attending an illegal midnight meeting. Two Irish members were arrested, at the doors of Parliament. Mr. O'Brien and other prisoners, when released from jail, were invariably received by enthusiastic crowds of admirers; but these tokens of popular sympathy with his victims hid not deter Mr. Balfour from repeating arrests throughout the year, whenever he had legal warrant under the Coercion Act, and fancied that he could weaken the National League. His Administration was challenged in a formal debate on the operation of the Coercion Act, but with a vote f 366 to 273 in his favor he could afford to be ontemptuous of the power of the Opposition. In his warfare with the League he was aided by the Vatican. On April 18 the Pope confirmed the declaration of the Supreme Congregation condeclaration of the Supreme Congregation con-demning the Plan of Campaign and boycotting in contests between landlords and tenants. The Irish bishops, after showing signs of reluctance, took measures to enforce the Pontiff's advice. While there were hostile demonstrations against the Vatican thoughout the island, and some inter was denounced as a species of meddlesome inter ference with political rights, the restraining in Vatican thoughout the island, and its action thence of the Church was everywhere felt. The Plan of Campaign proved less and less effective. Mr. Baifour has had a powerful ally in the Pope. The Government's chief offset to the stringent enforcement of the Coercion Act was a systematic effort to render the Ashbourne Act operative. Mr. Parnell as a substitute for the general bankruptey of tenants had asked the Commons to empower courts in which proceedings for ejectments were brought to reduce the debt and costs, and for the ake of relieving a large number of leasers to extend he limit of value from \$250 to \$500. This Ar-cars bill was rejected on March 21 by a vote of \$128 to 243. The Government, encouraged by the 328 to 243. In Government, encouraged by the success of the Ashbourne act, proposed in November to double the fund available for buying out landlords. There had been 14,338 agreements upurchase, involving \$29,030,000 for execution; and 6,833 of these had been for holdings under \$150 a The Government asked for authority to in-se the fund from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

year. The Government asked for authority to increase the fund from \$25,000,000 to \$55,000,000.000, Mr. Gladstone, taking up the Irish case where Mr. Parnell had dropped it in March, offered an amendment that a measure for relieving tenants in arrears should have precedence. This was voted down, and the Government measure carried by majorities of \$4 and 75 to the first and second readings and subsequently passed.

Meanwhile the Parnellite members had virtually been brought into court with "The London Times" as prosecutor, aided by Government counsel and influence. Mr. O'Dennell had sued that journal for libelling him in its series entitled "Parnellism and Crime." The collapse of an ill-advised and badly-managed prosecution left Mr. Parnell no recourse except to denounce as forgeries various letters attributed to him and to ask for a Parliamentary investigation. This the Government refused; and then, appreciating the injustice of its ters attributed to him and to ask for a Parlia-mentary investigation. This the Government re-fused; and then, appreciating the injustice of its course abruptly brought in a bill providing for a judicial commission to conduct an inourly respect-ing the charges of "The Lendon Times." This measure was fiercely criticised by the Home Rulers, but was finally passed on August 8, by a vote of 162 to 46, the Parnellites not voting. Mr. P-ruell and two associates at once brought libel suits in Scotland and England. The Commission, con-sisting of Judges Hannen, Day and Smith, met on September 17 for organization, and agreed to con-duct the inquiry as if it were an issue of fact September 17 for organization, and agreed to conduct the inquiry as if it were an issue of fact lirectly between the journal and the accused members. On October 24, Attorney-General Webster opened the case for the prosecution, and a procession of informers, constables, landlords, agents, victims of agrarianism and garralous criminals has since been in motion. The investigation promises to be one of interminable length.

The by-elections of the year have been sharply contested and have disclosed a marked trend in the

The by-elections of the year have been sharply contested and have disclosed a marked trend in the lirection of Home Rule. The Corservatives won a seat in Donesster and scored slight croins at Winchester, Dewsbury and elsewhere. But the Liberals were uniformly successful in reducing hostile majorities, made heavy grins in Ayr boroughs 'sle of Thanet. Compton and other constituencies, and won seats in Southamoto, Ediphurgh and Southwark. This renetion against the Government cas more apparent at the beginning than at the end of the year. If Mr Parenell succeeds in demonstrating that the Unionists have been trafficking in forgeries there may be a decided revolution of sublic feeling nearing his security is accusers. For the moment the constituencies appear to be everly disided on the burning question of Home Rule. Mr was to be personally responsible to the Charder.

all measures were to be submitted to a Council of State: Ministers were to be seefre in office for a fixed time; and the lower House was to be renewed by thirds every two years. The project was designed to disable the Executive at home. It is a Government that knows its own

mind and does not waver; and that is an invigor-ating exhibition for Englishmen. DEPENDENCIES OF THE EMPIRE.

The British Empire has been enlarged in Asia and Africa. A protectorate was proclaimed in October over the whole of the north part of Bornee as far as the Dutch line. In Sikkim, on the northern slopes of the Himalayas, there has been a little campaign. During March the Tibetans were discampaign. During March the Tibetans were dislodged from two forts by a British-Indian force.
They subsequently railied and attacked the garrisons, but were repulsed. The valley was calared
of hostile natives in October, the villages were
burned and the crops destroyed. Sikkim may
prove the starting point of a trans-Himalayan
Empire. In tropical Atrica a great section of territory has been annexed from the Transvaal to the
Zambesi. In East Africa the Crawn has granted
a charter to a trading company whose territories
stretch from Mombassa to Victoria Nyassa—about
50.000 square miles.

000 square miles. In Egypt there has been a marked improvement

stretch from Mombassa to Victoria Nyassa-above 50,000 square miles.

In Egypt there has been a marked improvement in financial administration. The abandonment of the Soudan has not prevented an engagement with the dervishes at Suakim, in which 400 Africa were killed. The Mahdists are reported to have extended their empire from Darfur to Wadai in the west and to have recovered the Equatorial Provinces in the south. Stanley's relief expedition probably reached Emin in January, and upon the advance of the Mahdists to Lado in Gordon's steamboats, at the end of spring, the two explorers are thought to have retreated together to the Aruwhimi. Osman Digna's account of the capture of Lado and the white prisoners is generally discredited.

Lord Dufferin's singularly successful administration of India has drawn to a close, and he has been succeeded by Lord Lansdowne. The scientific frontier has been strongly fortified and is virtually impregnable. In Afghanistan the Ameer's general routed in October the forces of Isbak Khan, a pretender to the throne, and suppressed a dangerous sevolt. In South Africa there has been a centennial continuation of the Govenments to demand a treaty similar to the one which the United State negotiated. Oncensland protested against the apparatus of vetoing the colonial appointments of the Cown Mas transferred to another next the privilege of vetoing the colonial appointments of the Cown Mas exercised in this instance in order to exclude an official of Irish birth who had made himself obnoxious to Mr. Parnell. Lord Stanley of Preston has taken Lord Lansdowne's place as Governor-General of Cariada. The complications caused by the determination of the Province of Manitoba to have direct railway communications with Minnesona have strengthened the annexation sentiment. The Mackensia basin has been annexation sentiment. have direct railway communications with Minne-sota have strengthened the annexation sentiment. The Mackenzie basin has been surveyed and vast areas have been found which are rich in minerals and suitable for the cultivation of poratoes and

THE MILITARY EMPIRES.

Germany ends the year poorer by two Hohenzollerns. Emperor William, the oldest of modern sovereigns, a veteran of the Napoleonic wars, who had avenged Jena after taking up the sword of Frederick the Great and establishing the supremacy of Prussia on the Continent, died on March 9, and was succeeded by the Crown Prince, whose life was already ebbing away at San Remo. Frederick III returned to Berlin to combat with patience and heroism the grim adversary whom as a gallant soldier he had defied on the battlefields of Behemia and France. It was the shortest and most pathetic of reigns. For three months the Emperor devoted himself with inflexible purpose to the cares of State, disclosing a broad and enlightened policy and singular nobility of char-Wearied but not undaunted by acter. agony of an unequal struggle the an inexorable disease, he died ou with June 15, honored and lamented the world over by the friends of liberal institutions and free government. The pathos of his fate touched the hearts even of enemies whom he had conquered, France and Austria uniting in sincere homage to the greatness of his character.

The funeral baked meats served in Germany for wedding dinners. Prince Henry of Prussia married in May Princess Irene of Hesse. Frederick III, influenced by the Empress, had also Mr. Balfour meanwhile was governing Ireland sought to bring about a marriage between Prince with steadiness of purpose and manifesting cynical Alexander of Battenberg and Princess Victoria, but had yielded to Prince Bismarck's threat of resignaindifference to outbreaks of temper and ferocious tion. The Chancellor wisely contended that, as language. Before Parliament opened in February, twelve Nationalist members had either been imthe Czar was personally hostile to Prince Alexander, a reconciliation of the Romanoffs and Horisoned or arrested under the Coercion Act, and henzellerns would be impracticable if the marriage were to take place. The Crown Prince, whose aversion to English influences at the Prussian one while entering and the other while leaving | Court was uncompromising and almost rancorous, Westminster on the opening day; and subsequently lent the Chancellor powerful support, and the several other members were captured by detectives match was broken off. After his accession to e Princess Sophie, a vounger sister of Princess Victoria, was betrothed to the Duke of Sparta, Crown Prince of Greece. This is an alliance that interests Germany in the future of Epirus and Macedonia, and tends to regulate Russian ambition in the Balkan lands, without

exciting the Czar's private resentment. Emperor William II showed signs of giddiness in his wartike produmations to the army and navy, but speedily altered his tone in addressing his subjects, and made conservative speeches in opening the Reichstag and the Landtag, proclaiming his intention of adhering closely to his grand-father's policy. He signalized his accession by a royal progress to the Continental capitals, meeting the Czar, at Cronstadt on July 18, and, after a succession of military pageants and ceremonials at St. Petersburg, calling at Steckholm and Copenhagen before his leturn to Berlin. Journeys to Vienna and Rome followed, the elliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy being strengthened by an exchange of congretulations. At Rome the Pope's claims to territorial sovereignty and the rivalries of Vatican and Quirinal created much embarrassment, and while the Emperor was received with corniality by the ecclesiastical head of millions of his Catholic subjects, it is doubtful if the diplomatic expedients were successful. In Vienna also Count Taafe, the Austrian Premier, was ostentationsly neglected, and since he represents Federalist tendencies, of which Prince Bismarck disapproves, the slighthas caused tension between the affied Governments. On the whole, the Emperor's bearing in this royal progress was excellent, and his pacific opening the Reichstag and the Landtag, proclaim has caused tension between the athed Governments. On the whole, the Emperor's bearing in this royal progress was excellent, and his pacific speech in opening the Reichstag on November 22 disclosed the benefits derived from his experiences in the capitals of Europe. England had not been included in his round of visits. Queen Victoria having coolly received overtures for the reception of her grandson. Some tension has been caused between the two courts by the Emperor's relations to his English mother, and this feeling of unfriendliness has been intensified by the disgraceful medical fends to which the employment of Sir Morell Mackenzie as his father's surgeon gave rise. That these jealousies are not shared by the two Governments is clear from the alliance against the African slave trade which was negotiated after the uprising of natives in Zanzibar against the German colonists. An authorized publication of a diary of the Crown Prince, kept during 1870-71, subjected Dr. Geffeken, of Hamburg, to prosecution on the charge of betraying State secrets. While three Emperors in turn have vehemently disclaimed any desire to plunge Germany into the horrers of war, the policy of armaments and

While three Emperors in turn have vehemently disclaimed any desire to plunge Germany into the horrors of war, the policy of armaments and costly preparations for campaigning on a large scale is steadily followed. On February 6 Prince Bismarck made a chapteristic speech in the Reichstag, carrying without discussion the Military Loan bill of \$70,000,000, and adding 700,000 men to the available forces of the Empire. The equipment of these additional reserves was provided for by 31-2 per cents, with an increase of \$75,500,000 in the military badget. Prince Bismarck had previously revealed the secret treaty made with Austria-Hungary on October 7, 1879, which involved an offensive and defensive alliance against Russia. He had also intimated that Italy had joined this anti-Russian cealition. His speech in defence of organized defensive alliance against Russia. He had also intimated that Italy had joined this anti-Russian coalition. His speech in defence of organized militarism in Europe may almost be regarded as his last political testament, for he has rarely appeared in the Reichstag and is evidently transferring the burdens of office to his son. Count Herbert Bismarck, who accompanied the Emperor to the capitals and seems destined to succeed to the Chancellorshin. Field Marshal Von Moltke has likewise retired from active dury at military headquarters, his successor being the Emperor's int mote frical. Count Waldersee. A new generation of rulers has come upon the scene, but the old ideas are still supreme. To military preparations are added embritons naval armaments, Gove nament proposits hav ng been mpd for the construction of twenty-eight menof-war, including nine powerful ironelads and seven armored cluis rs, with an expiniture of \$29,000,000. The colonial policy continues to be curse of with military in the chester of medil some instringe, and Ea t Africe from Zunaber to Lake Nyassa being driven, after the death of the Sultan, Seyya Barghash, into reall by harsh and intolerant mensures. In Alses-Larshine repression is still the order of the day, and French travellers have been harnssed by virid cules repression is still the order of the day, and French travellers have been harassed by rigid rules respecting passports, which have to be counter-signed by the German Embassy at Paris. The operation of the anti-socialist law has been prolonged for two years and very little progress in